

Message Text

SECRET

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /090 W

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R 301711Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2468

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

S E C R E T LONDON 10047

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH ANALYSIS OF INDIAN CRISIS

REF: NEW DELHI 8496

SUMMARY: BRITISH ASSESS THAT MRS. GANDHI IS IN TROUBLE,
THAT INDIA IS NOT. FCO OFFICIAL ADVISED US THAT UK
ANALYSIS IS THAT MRS. GANDHI WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCOM-
PLISH AUTHORITARIAN RULE FOR LONG PERIOD OF TIME, THAT
HER RECENT ACTIONS ARE BEGINNING A SLIPPERY SLOPE MOST

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LIKELY LEADING TO HER OWN DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE. END

SUMMARY.

1. HEAD OF FCO SOUTH ASIAN DEPARTMENT O'NEILL TOLD US JUNE 30 THAT UK ANALYSIS IS THAT MRS. GANDHI HAS GOTTEN HERSELF INTO A SITUATION FROM WHICH SHE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXTRICATE HERSELF. UK ANALYSTS BELIEVE THAT DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA ARE STRONG ENOUGH THAT AUTHORITARIAN RULE WILL NOT BE VIABLE FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. MAIN THREAT TO MRS. GANDHI'S CONTINUATION IN OFFICE WILL COME FROM OTHER LEADERS IN HER OWN PARTY RATHER THAN FROM OPPOSITION.

2. UK OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT MRS. GANDHI WILL TRY TO CLEAR UP CASE AGAINST HER QUICKLY AND THEN DECLARE AN END TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY RECONVENING PARLIAMENT AND SHORTLY BY ELECTIONS. IF MRS. GANDHI NOT ABLE/TO ACHIEVE THIS SCENARIO FCO BELIEVE SHE WILL GO ON GOVERNING OUTSIDE THE CONSTITUTION BUT THAT SOME OF HER MINISTERS WILL REFUSE TO ACCEPT A CONTINUATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY.

3. O'NEILL SAYS THAT ABOVE ANALYSIS IS BASED ON INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE TO FCO. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NEW DELHI HAS NOT HAD REPORTED CONTACTS WITH HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FIGURES IN INDIA SINCE EMERGENCY BEGAN. REPORTING WHICH HAS ARRIVED IN LONDON TO DATE INDICATES THE ATMOSPHERE IN NEW DELHI AND REST OF COUNTRY IS RELATIVELY CALM WITH SOME RELUCTANCE TO IMPLEMENT EMERGENCY MEASURES IN SOUTH AND SOME MINOR VIOLENCE IN NORTHEAST. BIGGEST PROBLEM FOR UK HIGH COMMISSIONER SO FAR HAS BEEN DEALING WITH DISGRUNTLED UK JOURNALISTS. FCO EXPECTS THAT SOME OF LATTER WILL SOON PLACE THEMSELVES IN A POSITION OF VIOLATING CENSORSHIP WHICH MAY WELL RESULT IN SOME EXPULSIONS.

RICHARDSON

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